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Senate Unit to Quiz County Police Chief On Fairfax Wiretaps

The police chief of Fairfax County has been called to testify Tuesday before a Senate subcommittee investigating wiretapping.

Chief William L. Durrer will be asked to tell the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure about wiretapping and electronic eavesdropping in Fairfax County, sources said yesterday.

Chief Durrer said he will bring Commonwealth's Attorney Ralph G. Louk with him before the subcommittee.

The Fairfax Board of Supervisors six years ago gave the Police Department authority to place wiretaps only with the permission of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), has been investigating wiretapping and electronic eavesdropping by Federal law enforcement agencies and by private agencies.

This marks the first time that a local law enforcement official from the Washington area has been called to testify before the subcommittee.

Chief Durrer acknowledged that his department uses wiretaps, but he refused to say in a telephone interview how many taps officers have placed or in what kinds of cases.

He said he would save that

visors gave their approval to police wiretaps as long as each case was checked with the Commonwealth's Attorney.

Durrer, 42, was named Fairfax police chief in 1957 after

10 years on the force. He is a graduate of the FBI Academy and attended law enforcement courses at the University of Maryland.

information for the subcommittee, adding only that "We do wiretap in certain cases where we need it."

The chief also declined to say how much equipment his department has and how much money is spent on wiretaps.

Reportedly, the department boasts of some of the newest and most sophisticated electronic gear made.

This is used, police sources said, by the Intelligence Squad in investigations of vice, drug addiction and extortion threats.

Reportedly, the Senate subcommittee has been supplied by confidential sources with a detailed list of wiretaps made by the Fairfax County Police.

Six years ago the County Supervisors questioned the amount of wiretapping done by the police.

At that time the county officials were told that telephone conversations had been tapped in six cases in two years. The taps were used in only two types of cases—tracing threatening or obscene telephone calls and tracking down a suspected numbers racket.

It was then that the super-